THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 13th November 1961.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past eight of the clock, the Deputy Speaker (SRI B. BHAKTAVATSALU NAIDU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Printed Forms for Schools (Supply)

* 2021 *Q.*—**SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI :** கனம் நிதி அமைச்சர் தயவுசெய்து கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விகளுக்குப் பதிலளிப்பாரா—

(அ) இவ்வாண்டு ஆரம்பப் பள்ளிகளுக்கு **Attendance Forms, Monthly Return Forms** போன்றவைகள் இதுவரை கிடைக்கவில்லை என்பது உண்மையா ?

(இ) அப்படியானால், அதற்கான காரணங்கள் என்ன ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (அ) and (இ) It is for the managements of the schools concerned to arrange to supply the attendance registers and Monthly Return Forms required for their schools by getting them printed locally. If the failure of any particular management to supply forms to schools is brought to notice, the matter will be further investigated.

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியன்கள் கீழ் உள்ள சில பள்ளிகளுக்கு இன்னும் இப்படிப்பட்ட பாரங்கள் சப்ளை செய்யாமல் இருக்கிற காரணத்தினால் அவர்கள் பெரிதும் கஷ்டப் படுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே உடனடியாக அதைச் சப்ளை செய்ய பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியன்களுக்கு உத்தரவிட முன்வருவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியன் களுக்கு இதைப் பற்றி உத்திரவிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆரம்ப காலத்தில் ஏதாவது தவக்கம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கலாம். பள்ளிக்கூடங் களுக்கு வேண்டிய பாரங்கள் மட்டும் அல்ல, மற்றவைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய பாரங்களையும் அச்சிட்டு வழங்குகிறார்கள் என்று நம்பு கிறேன்.

Schools in Kanyakumari district (increase in number of working days)

* 2022 *Q.*—SRI T. T. DANIEL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the number of working days in High Schools has been increased in Kanyakumari district:

(*b*) if so, whether it was done by the Government; and

(*c*) the reasons for it?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The minimum number of working days per year for High Schools, viz., 200, fixed for grant-in-aid purposes has not been increased in Kanyakumari district. The District Educational Officer, Nagercoil, has however requested the managements of Aided High Schools and Headmasters of Government High Schools to work for about 20 lays more, during the current year, in order to improve the S.S.L.C. results in the district.

(*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) A majority of High Schools in the Kanyakumari district have produced poor results in the S.S.L.C. Examination. The district average is 30 per cent, as against the State average of 54 per cent. With a view to improve the efficiency of schools, the District Educational Officer has requested the headmasters to work for 20 days more in the year. Only 25 High Schools out of 57 in the district are working for 220 days in the year.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : May I know, Sir, whether District Educational Officers have got the right to increase the number of working days in contravention of the provision of the Madras Educational Code and whether it is not a matter for the Government to pass such orders and not for the District Educational Officers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is not a question of right of the District Educational Officers. The District Educational Officers have made a suggestion that because of the very poor standard they should work a little more and that suggestion has been accepted by only 25 High Schools out of 57. It is not an order passed by the District Educational Officer, but it was a suggestion. It should have been obeyed by all the 57 High Schools. In these matters, the District Educational Officer should be given certain discretion to make suggestions so that in their localities improvements could be brought about.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : Is it not a fact that representations from the public were made that this charge of hours and the increase in the number of days will not be a proper course for increasing the results in the district and is it not also a fact that the District Educational Officer should take into consideration the particular social conditions prevailing in the various villages in the district? Have the Government repealed that order now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have already stated that it is not an order. This is only a suggestion of the District Educational Officer and if it had been repealed that only shows this was merely a suggestion and that suggestion has been withdrawn. But even though I do agree that the working for more days would not produce good results, I would suggest that they should themselves devise ways for improving results. Even without the suggestion or the so-called order of the Dirstrict Educational Officer, the High Schools themselves should come forward to step up the standard.

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SRI T. T. DANIEL : Is it not a fact that the results of the High Schools in Kanyakumari district are generally very poor because the number of students in different High Schools amounts nearly to 1,000 to 1,200 and in each class a teacher has to handle about 60 to 65 students? Will the Government take into consideration that fact and bifurcate the High Schools and appoint some more Headmasters and also increase the number of teachers so that individual attention may be paid and students taken care of so that the results of the High Schools may also be brought up to an encouraging level as in the case of other districts in our State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The strength of 1,000 or 1,200 students is not particularly confined to Kanyakumari district alone. As a matter of fact, High Schools which have more than 1,000 to 2,000 students are producing better results than Kanyakumari district. As far as the strength of the class is concerned, it is uniform and it is only 35 students for a section and therefore I do not think in Kanyakumari district the teacher is asked to look after classes consisting of 60 to 65 students as mentioned by the hon. Member. If that happens, it might be due to temporary difficulties with regard to the number of teachers available. But the rule is that one section should have only 35 or 40 students.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Now that the Kanyakumari district has come into our State and now that we find that the results are poor when compared to the other parts of the State, is it a fact that the student education in the erstwhile Travancore State, particularly with reference to Kanyakumari district, is lower in standard than the standard obtaining in our State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Particularly with reference to S.S.L.C. Examination results that is the conclusion we are able to draw. Another handicap was that in Primary schools there was shift system which was not prevalent elsewhere. In the Primary Schools, the standard reached by the end of fifth standard was not of the same as the standard reached in other parts of the State. That also has been now rectified and I hope the hon. Members will co-operate in bringing various changes instead of resisting attempts to improve the standards.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether there is any change in the method of examination in the Madras State from the method adopted in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Examinations are required for the purpose of testing the competence, attainments and standards of the pupils. Therefore, whatever be the type of examinations, the knowledge content and the standards reached should be the same. We find that standards have not been reached in the Kanyakumari district. That is why we are trying to make various reforms there so that the standard of education in that district could also be brought to the same level as that obtaining in the other districts of the State. It is not as if I am satisfied

with the standard obtaining in the rest of the State. The other districts also require pulling up. But, particularly, backward areas in the educational set-up will have to be looked into first and our attempt no doubt should be on the whole to improve the standards everywhere.

Midday Meals Scheme (Assistance by Care)

* 2023 *Q.*—SRI V. K. KOTHANDARAMAN (on behalf of SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be please to state :

(*a*) the details of the assistance given by the Co-operative for American Relief Every-where (CARE) for providng midday meals to the school children in the State;

(*b*) the areas and the number of students to be benefited by the scheme;

(*c*) the type of organization to be set up for distributing the articles; and

(*d*) the expenditure, if any, the Government would incur?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The 'CARE' Organization have offered to supply 18·75 million pounds of rice, 6·25 million pounds of milk powder, 3 million pounds of enriched cornmeal and 3 million pounds of vegetable cooking oil. If the full quantity of rice is not available with the organization, wheat is to be supplied to the extent required.

(*b*) Rice and cornmeal are primarily meant for extending the existing midday meal scheme to urban areas, i.e., municipalities and major panchayats. About 3·84 lakhs of pupils will be benefited. Milk powder and cooking oil will be available for distribution throughout the State. At present 9·12 lakhs of pupils in about 22,000 centres will be benefited.

(*c*) The Education Department will be solely in charge of the arrangements for distribution. The commodities received in Madras will be transported to the headquarters of District Educational Officers and from there to the range headquarters of Deputy Inspectors of Schools. The Deputy Inspectors will distribute them to the headmasters of schools who are the secretaries of the local midday meal committees.

(*d*) Government have to pay the administrative and operating costs to the CARE organization which are estimated to be Rs. 5,41,500. In addition Government have to meet the cost of the additional staff appointed by them for supervision, handling and distribution of the commodities as well as godown and transport charges.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the sale of CARE food gift articles in the markets?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Not in our State, Sir.